



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 12 2001

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

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RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

In Reply Please Refer To:
EPA File No: 1R-96-R1

Larry Charles, Sr.
Executive Director
O.N.E./C.H.A.N.E., Inc.
2065 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06129

Re: Title VI Complaint Regarding North Hartford Landfill, Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Charles:

Thank you for your October 2, 2001, letter to Kent Benjamin of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Title VI Task Force withdrawing the first allegation in your Title VI administrative complaint concerning alleged discriminatory effects from the granting of a permit to expand the North Hartford Landfill. Your letter stated that negotiations have amicably resolved this concern. Accordingly, this letter both acknowledges the withdrawal request and notifies you that the EPA's Office of Civil Rights is closing its investigation into the first of the two allegations contained in your administrative complaint alleging violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and EPA's implementing regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Part 7, by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP).

Your Title VI complaint, filed with EPA on June 24, 1996, and later supplemented on August 21, 1996, alleged that CTDEP's: (1) expansion and change of use of the landfill to accept incinerator ash in addition to municipal solid waste would cause adverse environmental and health impacts on minority residents; and (2) procedures for permitting facilities have a discriminatory effect on minority communities in the Hartford area because they do not provide for effective public notice or participation and do not allow meaningful public input. The first allegation concerning the landfill is now closed; the second allegation concerning effective public participation remains open for investigation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact John Fogarty at (202) 564-8865 or fogarty.johnpc@epa.gov, or by mail at U.S. EPA, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (Mail Code 2261A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20460.

Sincerely,


Karen D. Higginbotham
Acting Director

cc: Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator
EPA Region I

Robert E. Fabricant, General Counsel
Office of General Counsel (MC 2310A)

Sylvia K. Lowrance, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (MC 2201A)

Marianne L. Horinko, Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (MC 5101)

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Office of Environmental Justice (MC 2201A)
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Rafael DeLeon, Associate General Counsel
Civil Rights Law Office (MC2399A)
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Pam Hill, Title VI Coordinator
EPA Region I

Gail Ginsberg, Chair
Title VI Task Force (MC 2201A)